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Fifty-third session
Agenda item 113

Programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Tammam **Sulaiman** (Syrian Arab Republic)

I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 113 appear in the reports of the Committee contained in documents A/53/485 and Add.1–3.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 57th, 59th and 63rd meetings on 13, 21 and 28 May 1999. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/53/SR.47,59 and 63).

3. In addition to the documents listed in A/53/485 and Add.2, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the utilization of the development dividend (A/53/374/Add.1);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the Development Account: modalities for operating the Account (A/53/945);

(c) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the Development Account (A/53/7/Add.12);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Untied Nations Fund for International Partnerships (A/53/700 and Add.1);

(e) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (A/53/7/Add.11).

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II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.68

4. At the 63rd meeting, on 28 May, the representative of Bangladesh and coordinator of informal consultations on the item introduced a draft resolution entitled "Development Account" (A/C.5/53/L.68), submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.68 without a vote (see para. 12).

B. Draft decision proposed by the Chairman

6. At the 59th meeting, on 21 May, the Chairman orally proposed a draft decision entitled "United Nations Fund for International Partnerships".

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision without a vote (see para. 13, draft decision I).

C. Draft decision proposed by the Chairman

8. At the 63rd meeting, on 28 May, the representative of Bangladesh and coordinator of informal consultations on the Development Account informed the Committee that no agreement had been reached on the question of modalities for operating the Development Account.

9. At the same meeting, in the light of the statement made by the representative of Bangladesh, the Chairman of the Committee orally proposed a draft decision entitled "Modalities for operating the Development Account".

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision without a vote (see para. 13, draft decision II).

11. Following the adoption of the draft decision, statements in explanation of position were made by the representatives of Germany (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Guyana (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Uganda (see A/C.5/53/SR.63).

III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

12. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Development Account

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, 52/220 and 52/221 A of 22 December 1997, 52/235 of 26 June 1998 and 53/220 of 7 April 1999,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the utilization of the development dividend[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Noting the reformulations made by the Secretary-General for proposals A, B, D, E, F, G and H,

Noting also that proposal C is being reconsidered for subsequent submission to the General Assembly,

Noting further the reformulations of proposals F, G and H in accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 53/220,

Reaffirming its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986,

Reaffirming also the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,

1. *Decides* that the title of proposal H should be changed to "Activities for capacity-building in developing countries in pursuance of the objectives of Agenda 21, the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action";

2. *Approves* the following reformulated proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General,[1] on an ad hoc and one-time basis only, without setting a precedent and without prejudicing the outcome of its consideration of the sustainability and establishment of the mechanism and modalities of the Development Account:

F. On-line network of regional institutions for capacity-building in public administration and finance (Department of Economic and Social Affairs);

G. Research network for economic policy analysis (Department of Economic and Social Affairs);

H. Activities for capacity-building in developing countries in pursuance of the objectives of Agenda 21, the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Department of Economic and Social Affairs);

3. *Reiterates* that all projects shall be fully implemented in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 of General Assembly resolution 53/220 and the relevant Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, as revised by the Assembly in its resolution 53/207 of 18 December 1998;

4. *Decides* that the anticipated duration of the approved projects contained in the report of the Secretary-General shall not be used as a precedent for setting time limits for the programmes of the regular budget;

[1] A/53/374/Add.1.

[2] A/53/7/Add.12.

5. *Decides* to keep the implementation of the projects under review, and requests the Secretary-General to submit reports to the General Assembly in accordance with relevant regulations and rules.

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13. The Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I

United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships[3] and the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon,[4] and requests the Secretary-General to continue to inform the General Assembly, on a regular basis, about the activities of the Fund.

Draft decision II

Modalities for operating the Development Account

The General Assembly decides to defer consideration of the question of modalities for operating the Development Account to the main part of its fifty-fourth session, with a view to finalizing it prior to its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001.

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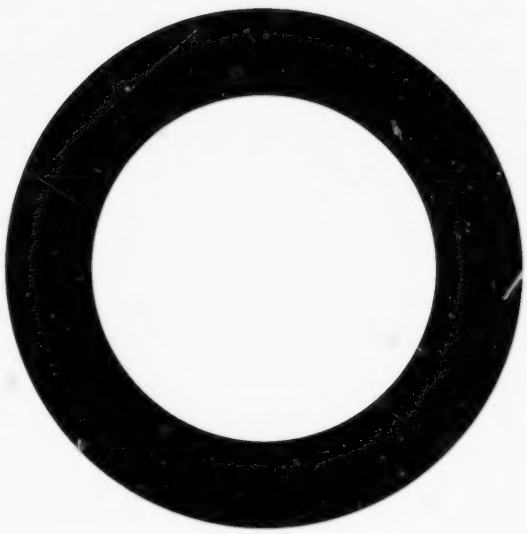
[3] A/53/700 and Add.1.

[4] A/53/7/Add.11.



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Fifty-third session
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Programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Tammam **Sulaiman** (Syrian Arab Republic)

I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 113 appear in the reports of the Committee contained in documents A/53/485 and Add.1–4.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the question of East Timor at its 64th meeting, on 25 June 1999. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the question are reflected in the relevant summary record (A/C.5/53/SR.64).

3. In addition to the documents listed in documents A/53/485 and Add.2–4, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the question of East Timor (A/C.5/53/63) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/53/7/Add.14).

II. Consideration of a draft resolution proposed by the Chairman

4. At the 64th meeting, on 25 June, the Chairman introduced a draft resolution on the question of East Timor (A/C.5/53/L.76).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote (see para. 7).

6. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of position were made by the representatives of Germany (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union and Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia,

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Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Cyprus, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Malta and Norway), Cuba, Canada, Algeria, the Republic of Korea and Mexico (see A/C.5/53/SR.64).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Question of East Timor

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in East Timor[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling its decision 53/472 of 25 May 1999, wherein it authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments up to $35 million, from all sources of funds, for the initial requirements of the United Nations activities related to East Timor,

1. *Notes* that the budget proposed by the Secretary-General amounts to $52,531,100 gross;

2. *Reiterates* that the expenses of the Organization shall be borne by the Members as apportioned by the General Assembly;

3. *Notes* that the contributions received so far for the Trust Fund for the Settlement of the Question of East Timor amount to $21,731,700 and that further contributions may be received;

4. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the financial regulations, rules, procedures and practices established by the General Assembly concerning such contributions;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to all those Member States which have made voluntary contributions to the Mission;

6. *Decides* to appropriate an amount of $52,531,100 for the United Nations Mission in East Timor, and requests the Secretary-General to establish a special account for the Mission;

7. *Decides* that the amount to be assessed will be determined after review of the report which the Secretary-General will submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, taking into account voluntary contributions received;

8. *Decides* that such assessments as will be necessary shall be apportioned among Member States in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996, 51/218 A to C of 18 December 1996 and

[1] A/C.5/53/63.

[2] A/53/7/Add.14.

52/230 of 31 March 1998 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 1999, as set out in its resolution 52/215 A of 22 December 1997.